



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality

June 6, 2000



M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

J. Dale Givens
Secretary

8-Hour Ozone Public Hearings

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is seeking comment on the establishment of geographic boundaries for 8-hour ozone nonattainment areas. The public comment period ends at 4:30 p.m. on June 10, 2000, CST. Remaining public hearings will be held as follows:

- June 6, 2000, (Calcasieu Parish) Lake Charles Courthouse, 326 Pujo, Lake Charles, LA, 10:00 a.m.
- June 7, 2000, St. James Parish Courthouse, 5800 La. Hwy. 44, Convent, LA, at 10:00 a.m.
- June 7, 2000, Iberville Parish Courthouse, 58050 Merlam Street, Plaquemine, LA, at 6:00 p.m.
- June 9, 2000, St. Bernard Parish Complex Building, 8201 W. Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA, at 2:00 p.m.
- June 9, 2000, (Plaquemines Parish) Belle Chase Library, 8442 Hwy. 23-B, Belle Chase, LA, at 6:00 p.m.

Under the authority of the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:1051 et seq., and in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 30:2058 et seq., and the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the secretary gives notice that the process to recommend to the EPA designation of parishes as attainment or nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) has been initiated. The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that all areas not meeting the 8-hour ozone standard be designated as nonattainment.

The U.S. EPA requires states to submit to EPA their recommendations for area designations and boundaries by June 30, 2000. EPA's designation of the 8-hour ozone NAAQS will be based on the most recent three, consecutive years of monitored air quality data which are the years of 1997, 1998, and 1999. This air quality data for this period show that the following parishes do not meet the 8-hour ozone standard: Ascension, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston and West Baton Rouge.

The EPA recommends that any parish with an ozone monitor showing a violation of the NAAQS and any nearby parish contributing emissions need to be designated as nonattainment. Further, the EPA recommends that the MSA/CMSA serve as the presumptive boundary for the 8-hour ozone nonattainment area. Parishes that may receive that ozone nonattainment status are: Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Terrebonne and Webster.

Interested persons are invited to attend designated public hearings and submit oral comments on the proposed nonattainment designations and geographic boundaries. Written comments may also be submitted at the time of the public hearing or sent to Ms. Annette Sharp, Environmental Planning Division, P. O. Box 82178, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2178. Faxed comments should be sent to Ms. Sharp at (225) 765-0617. Receipt of written comments must be no later than 4:30 p.m. on June 10, 2000. For other details, you may call Ms. Sharp at (225) 765-0244.

A copy of the designation information may be viewed at the Environmental Planning Division from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) at either 7290 Bluebonnet, 5th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA or at one of the following regional offices:

- (1) Southeast Regional Office located at 3501 Chateau Boulevard - West Wing, Kenner, LA.
- (2) Capital Regional Office located at 5222 Summa Court - Baton Rouge, LA
- (3) Acadiana Regional Office located at 100 Asma Blvd., Suite 151, Lafayette, LA
- (3) Southwest Regional Office located at 3519 Patrick Street, Suite 265, Lake Charles, LA
- (4) Northwest Regional Office located at 1525 Fairfield, Room 11, Shreveport, LA

Contact Jeff Simon, Ph.D. for more information: (225) 763-5403; e-mail: jeff_s@deq.state.la.us